

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON  
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
October 17, 2022

The Regular meeting of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Lee Barrow at 6:00 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lee Barrow and Councilmember's: Joe Escalera, Pat Barrera, Katrina Kunkel, and John White.

**EXCUSED:**

Councilmember Kunkel moved to excuse Councilmember Harper. Pro Tem Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

City Administrator Cathleen Koch, Treasurer Teresa Steele, Public Works Director Hallie Tuck, Police Chief Chris Lee, Building Planner Sterling Joyner, and City Attorney Heidi Ellerd.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to approve the consent calendar as presented:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting September 19, 2022
- b) Accounts Payable 10/17/22 for \$412,670.71
- c) Check Register 10/3/22 for \$167,464.52
- d) Check Register 10/3/22 for \$297.60
- e) Payroll Register 9/20/22 – 9/20/22 for \$48,989.70
- f) Payroll Register 10/05/22 – 10/05/22 for \$98,540.90

Councilmember White seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Pro Tem Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING 2060**

Up for renewal was the City of Connell interlocal agreement with Franklin County for affordable housing. It was put in place in 2011 by Franklin County, Connell, Mesa, Pasco, and Kahlotus after the Washington State Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 2060. The agreement authorized a committee, consisting of representatives from the participating jurisdictions, to make recommendations on the distribution of funds to various eligible affordable housing projects that benefit residents of Franklin County. The City of Connell had one seat on the committee that was held by the Mayor. Funds were received from a \$13 surcharge on certain documents recorded with the County Auditor's office. The funds were used for eligible housing activities that served extremely low and very low-income households in the County and the Cities.

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**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Franklin County for Affordable Housing funds (2060 funds). Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR HOMELESS HOUSING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS 1406

Franklin County received sales tax revenues for affordable and supportive housing efforts for chemical dependency and mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts. The tax monies provided for a funding source for this need and were credited against state sales taxes collected in Franklin County that ensured that a higher sales and use tax was not charged. The agreement authorized a committee, consisting of representatives from the participating jurisdictions to make recommendations on the distribution of funds to various eligible affordable housing projects that benefited residents of Franklin County. The City of Connell had one seat on the committee that was held by the Mayor.

**Motion:** Pro Tem Barrera moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Franklin County for Homeless and Assistance Programs and Plans (1406 funds). Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR HOMELESS HOUSING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS 2163

In accordance with RCW 36.22.179, the Franklin County Auditor added a surcharge of sixty-two dollars for each recorded document. The funds were then used for homeless housing and assistance programs. Each City that was a party to the agreement was authorized to appoint two people to the Benton Franklin Housing Continuum of Care. They served in an advisory capacity to the Benton County Department of Human Services that administered the Homeless Housing Plan. The Mayor served in an advisory capacity for the City.

**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Franklin County for Homeless Housing and Assistance Programs (2163 funds). Councilmember White seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING - 2023 REVENUE SOURCES AND AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES  
Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting and opened a Public Hearing to allow for the purpose of considering the 2023 Revenue Sources and Ad Valorem Property Taxes.

STAFF REPORT:

City Treasurer Teresa Steele presented detailed projections for the 2023 proposed preliminary budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None Heard

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

None Heard

Mayor Barrow closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting.

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ORDINANCE NO 1026-2022 AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES

A draft of the Ad Valorem Property Tax ordinance was provided for Council’s discussion. Staff was not requesting Council to consider adoption of it but instead it was recommended to bring back at the following meeting for consideration of the potential 1% increase in property taxes. The 1% increase would amount to approximately \$5,635.

*The consensus of the Council was to bring back this item for further discussion to the next City Council meeting.*

CLOSED RECORD HEARING – PRELIMINARY PLAT APPLICATION FOR OASIS VILLAGE II

Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 6:35 pm and opened the Closed Record Hearing regarding: Oasis Village II Preliminary Plat.

DECLARATION OF COUNCILMEMBERS:  
None Heard

STAFF REPORT:

This report was prepared by Nicole Stickney and Emily Weimer from AHBL on behalf of the city. At this closed record hearing for a quasi-judicial action such as this preliminary plat application, Council would hear testimony only from parties of record and no new information could be presented, but information previously put on the record could be restarted or clarified if needed.

The City received an application for a Preliminary Plat subdivision of – 16.24 acre parcel up to 100 single-family residential lots in the Residential High Density (RH) zone Oasis Village II.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:  
None Heard

PUBLIC COMMENT:  
None Heard

Mayor Barrow closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting at 6:58 pm.

**Motion:** Pro Tem Barrera moved to approve the Preliminary Plat of Oasis Village II, with the findings of fact and conditions of approval, including the granting of one deviation, as listed in the staff report. Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. (3-2 vote) Motion carried.

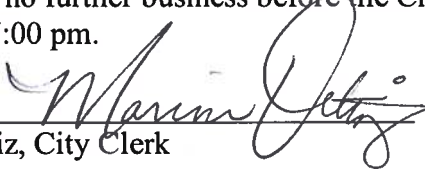
COUNCILMEMBERS REMARKS

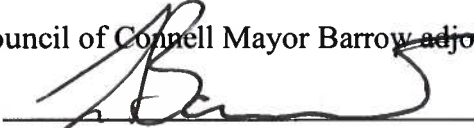
Councilmember Kunkel – Announced the Hometown Halloween Trunk or Treat event, would take place on N. Columbia Street between Borah to Franklin streets on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

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MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

ATTEST:   
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk

  
Lee Barrow, Mayor